

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Alternative Educators

FROM: Molly Chamberlin, Director
Educational Options

DATE: August 31, 2007

RE: Adult Education Clarification

Many alternative education programs interface with adult education programs as they work to secure the appropriate programming for their students. This memo is intended to clarify how and under what conditions these programs can provide seamless support for students.

Compulsory School Attendance Law

First, it is important to understand that IC 20-33-2-9 requires that a student who is at least sixteen (16) years of age but less than eighteen (18) is bound by the requirements of the compulsory school attendance law and may not withdraw from school before graduation without going through an exit interview. Even if the conditions of the exit interview are met, unless the withdrawal is due to financial hardship, illness or an order by a court the student cannot withdraw. A student may withdraw to attend another educational placement like a private school or home school.

Conditions for Participation in Adult Education

Currently enrolled high school students cannot TRANSFER into Adult Education. They must WITHDRAW from high school and enroll in an Adult Education program (ASC, GED, ABE). It is this enrollment that makes them eligible for Adult Education funding and subject to Adult Education rules.

Students (16+) who are still enrolled in high school (including an alternative education program) may attend Adult Education courses for credit recovery or as a part of their high school program. However, since these students are still enrolled in school, they are under the rules for K-12 education, not Adult

Education. In addition, because they are being claimed for ADM and possibly Alternative Education funding, they cannot be included in the count for Adult Education reimbursement. It is a local decision whether the high school will recognize credits from an Adult Secondary Credit (ASC) program. The local school corporation may also determine how many credits may be earned in this manner. It is important to clarify these issues in writing especially when students choose to attend an ASC program that is not affiliated with their local school corporation.

GED/ABE

Students enrolled in high school may **not** take the GED test. To take the GED, a student must be at least 17 years old and withdrawn (i.e. exit interview) from school. Withdrawn students who are 16+ may enroll in GED preparation or ABE programs in order to acquire the skills to pass the GED.

Currently enrolled high school students may participate in GED preparation or ABE as part of their school program as long as they are not counted for Adult Education reimbursement. However, these students cannot take the GED test until they have withdrawn.